



**STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

CITIZENS PLAZA BUILDING
400 DEADERICK STREET
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37243-1403

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BILL HASLAM
GOVERNOR

DANIELLE W. BARNES
COMMISSIONER

July 10, 2018

Rhonda McDonald, Owner
Building Block Child Development Center, Inc.
5400 Knight Arnold Road
Memphis, Tennessee 38115-2817

Dear Ms. McDonald,

The Department of Human Services (DHS) – Division of Audit Services staff conducted an unannounced on-site monitoring review of the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) at Building Block Child Development Center, Inc. (Sponsor), Application Agreement 00-186, on May 31, 2018. The purpose of this review was to determine if the Sponsor complied with *Title 7 of the Code of Federal Regulations* (CFR) applicable parts, application agreement, and applicable Federal and State regulations.

Background

CACFP Sponsors utilize meal count sheets to record the number of breakfast, lunch, supper and supplement meals served. Meals served by participating sponsors must meet the minimum guidelines set by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and DHS to be eligible for reimbursement. The CACFP sponsor reports the number of meals served through DHS to be eligible for reimbursement. The CACFP sponsor reports the number of meals served through the DHS Tennessee Information Payment System (TIPS) system to seek reimbursement. We inspected meal count sheets for our test period and reconciled the meals claimed to the meals reported as served for each meal service. We also assessed compliance with civil rights requirements. In addition, we observed a meal service on April 23, 2018.

Our review of the Sponsor's records for April 2018 disclosed the following:

- 1. The number of participants reported in the free, reduced-price, and paid category was incorrect**

Condition

The claim for reimbursement for April 2018 reported 47 participants in the free category, seven participants in the reduced-price category, and seven participants in the paid category. However, based on our review of the Sponsor's records, we noted that there were 46 participants in the free category, five participants in the reduced-price category and 11 participants in the paid category. The differences were based on the following:

- There was one participant classified as paid on the application, but the household income qualified as reduced-price. This participant was reclassified as reduced-price.
- There was one participant classified as free, but they did not have the last four digits of the adult's social security number. This participant was reclassified as paid.
- There were two participants classified as reduced-price, but they did not have the last four digits of the adult's social security number. These two participants were reclassified as paid.
- There were two participants classified as free, but they did not have an adult signature. These two participants were reclassified as paid.
- There was one participant was reported as reduced-priced but classified as free on the application. This participant was reclassified to free.
- There was one participant in the free category that was not reported.

Criteria

Title 7 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Section 226.10 (c) states, in part "...In submitting a Claim for Reimbursement, each institution shall certify that the claim is correct and that records are available to support that claim..."

Title 7 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Section 226.17 (b)(8) states, "Child care centers shall collect and maintain documentation of the enrollment of each child, including information used to determine eligibility for free and reduced price meals in accordance with §226.23(e)(1) ... Such documentation of enrollment must be updated annually, signed by a parent or legal guardian, and include information on each child's normal days and hours of care and the meals normally received while in care."

Recommendation

The Sponsor should ensure each participant is classified and reported according to income eligibility applications for child care center participants. Applications should be completed with all required information.

2. The Sponsor claimed the incorrect number of meals

Condition

The claim for reimbursement for April 2018 reported 716 breakfast meals, 785 lunch meals, and 1,030 supplements. However, based on our review of the Sponsor's records, we noted that 716 breakfast meals, 785 lunch meals, and 1,062 supplements prior to any meal disallowances, were reported as served. The Sponsor under claimed the number supplements by 32.

Criteria

Title 7 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Section 226.10 (c) states "...In submitting a Claim for Reimbursement, each institution shall certify that the claim is correct and that records are available to support that claim..."

Recommendation

The Sponsor should ensure the meal count claimed agrees with the actual meal count documentation and meals served.

3. The Sponsor provided a menu that did not meet the USDA meal requirements

Condition

A reimbursable lunch meal and supper meal consists of milk, a grain/grain alternative, a meat or meat alternate, a vegetable, and a fruit or vegetable component. The menu dated April 30th listed tostado w/extra meat, spinach, corn on the cob, and fruit cocktail. There was no milk listed on the menu.

As a result, the cost reimbursements for 39 lunch meals were disallowed.

Criteria

Title 7 of the Code of Federal Regulations Section 226.17(b)(4) states. "Each child care center participating in the Program shall claim only the meal types specified in its approved application in accordance with the meal pattern requirements specified in §226.20 ..."

Recommendation

The Sponsor should ensure menus meet the meal patterns established by the USDA.

4. Infant menus did not meet the meal pattern requirements established by the USDA

Condition

A reimbursable infant lunch meal and supper meal consists of breast milk or formula, infant cereal or meat alternate and a fruit or vegetable. A reimbursable infant supplement meal consists of breast milk or infant formula, bread, cracker, or cereal, and a fruit or vegetable. The menus provided for infants had deficiencies and listed the following:

Infant: TL, 6 Months

Dates	Missing Component	Disallowed Meal
4/3/18	Bread, cracker, or cereal and a fruit or vegetable Menu listed: Iron fortified infant formula	1 supplement meal
4/12/18	Infant Cereal or meat/meat alternate Menu listed: Iron fortified infant formula, butternut squash, and applesauce	1 lunch meal

Infant: AvR, 8 Months

Dates	Missing Component	Disallowed Meal
4/5/18	Bread, cracker, or cereal and a fruit or vegetable Menu listed: Iron fortified infant formula	1 supplement meal

Infant: AdR, 8 Months

Dates	Missing Component	Disallowed Meal
4/26/18	Infant cereal or meat/meat alternate Menu listed: Iron fortified infant formula, carrots, and mango	1 lunch meal

As a result two lunch meals and two supplements were disallowed,

Criteria

Title 7 of the Code of Federal Regulations Section 226.17(b)(4) states. "Each child care center participating in the Program shall claim only the meal types specified in its approved application in accordance with the meal pattern requirements specified in §226.20 ..."

Title 7 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Section 226.20 (4)(2)(a) states, "...Infant meals must have, at a minimum, each of the food components indicated, in the amount that is appropriate for the infant's age.....Breakfast, lunch, or supper. Six to 8 fluid ounces of breastmilk or iron-fortified infant formula, or portions of both; and 0 to 4 tablespoons of iron-fortified dry infant cereal, meat, fish, poultry, whole egg, cooked dry beans, or cooked dry peas; or 0 to 2 ounces (weight) of cheese; or 0 to 4 ounces (volume) of cottage cheese; or 0 to 4 ounces of yogurt; and 0 to 2 tablespoons of vegetable, fruit, or portions of both. Fruit juices and vegetable juices must not be served.

Title 7 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Section 226.20 (4)(2)(b) states in part, "...Infant meals must have, at a minimum, each of the food components indicated, in the amount that is appropriate for the infant's age..... Snack. Two to 4 fluid ounces of

breastmilk or iron-fortified infant formula; and 0 to ½ slice bread; or 0-2 crackers; or 0-4 tablespoons infant cereal or ready-to-eat cereals; and 0 to 2 tablespoons of vegetable or fruit, or portions of both. Fruit juices and vegetable juices must not be served. A serving of grains must be whole grain-rich, enriched meal, or enriched flour.

Recommendation

The Sponsor should ensure infants menu meet the meal patterns established by the USDA.

5. The Sponsor reported the number of attendance days incorrectly

Condition

The Claim for Reimbursement for the test month reported 1,068 attendance days. However, our review of the Sponsor's records verified 1,066 attendance days.

Criteria

Title 7 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Section 226.10 (c) states in part "...In submitting a Claim for Reimbursement, each institution shall certify that the claim is correct and that records are available to support that claim..."

Recommendation

The Sponsor should ensure the attendance is recorded and reported correctly. Appropriate supporting documentation should be maintained and available.

6. The Sponsor did not provide documentation to support the requirement that one whole grain-rich grain must be served each day

Condition

In accordance to the revised meal pattern requirements effective October 1, 2017; at least one serving of grain per day must be whole grain-rich. The following deficiencies were identified:

The menus for the following days did not list any whole grain product as being served - April 2nd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 23rd, 24th, 25th and 27th.

There were no meals disallowed due to the one year grace period given to Sponsors to conform to the revised CACFP meal pattern requirements.

Criteria

Title 7 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Section 226.20 (4)(a) states, "At least one serving per day, across all eating occasions of bread, cereals, and grains, must be whole grain-rich. Whole grain-rich foods contain at least 50 percent whole grains and

the remaining grains in the food are enriched, and must meet the whole grain-rich criteria specified in FNS guidance.”

Recommendation

The Sponsor should ensure that all labels are maintained for verification purposes and menus meet the meal patterns established by the USDA.

7. The Sponsor provided menus that did not meet the new CACFP meal pattern

Condition

In accordance to the revised meal pattern requirements effective October 1, 2017, no grain based desserts are allowable. The menus provided had deficiencies and listed the following:

Date	Meal with grain-based dessert	Grain-based dessert
4/3/18	Supplement Meal Menu listed: Granola bars and mandarin oranges	Granola bars
4/5/18	Supplement Meal Menu listed: Vanilla wafers and peaches	Vanilla wafers
4/11/18	Supplement Meal Menu listed: Granola bars and applesauce	Granola bars
4/12/18	Supplement Meal Menu listed: Rice Krispy treats and mandarin oranges	Rice Krispy treats
4/13/18	Supplement Meal Menu listed: Oatmeal cookies and pears	Oatmeal cookies
4/17/18	Supplement Meal Menu listed: Vanilla wafers and sliced apples	Vanilla wafers
4/23/18	Supplement Meal Menu listed: Granola bars and applesauce	Granola bars
4/25/18	Supplement Meal Menu listed: Oatmeal cookies and mandarin oranges	Oatmeal cookies

There were no meals disallowed due to the one year grace period given to Sponsors to conform to the revised CACFP meal pattern requirements.

Criteria

Title 7 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Section 226.20 (a)(4)(iii) states, “Grain based desserts do not count towards meeting the grains requirement.”

Recommendation

The Sponsor should ensure menus meet the meal patterns established by the USDA.

8. Infant menus did not meet the meal pattern requirements established by the USDA

Condition

In accordance to the revised meal pattern requirements effective October 1, 2017; when the child is developmentally ready, an infant aged 6-11 months must be served a fruit/vegetable component with the supplement meal. The menus provided for infants had deficiencies and listed the following:

Infant: TL, 6 Months

Date	Missing Component
4/3/18	Fruit/Vegetable, after it has been introduced into the infant's diet

Infant: AvR, 8 Months

Date	Missing Component
4/5/18	Fruit/Vegetable, after it has been introduced into the infant's diet

There were no meals disallowed due to the one year grace period given to Sponsors to conform to the revised CACFP meal patterns.

Criteria

Title 7 of the Code of Federal Regulations Section 226.20(b)(4)(ii) states, "6 through 11 months... Meals are reimbursable when institutions and facilities provide all the components in the meal pattern that the infant is developmentally ready to accept."

Title 7 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Section 226.20 (4)(2)(b) states, "...Infant meals must have, at a minimum, each of the food components indicated, in the amount that is appropriate for the infant's age..... Snack. Two to 4 fluid ounces of breastmilk or iron-fortified infant formula; and 0 to 1/2 slice bread; or 0-2 crackers; or 0-4 tablespoons infant cereal or ready-to-eat cereals; and 0 to 2 tablespoons of vegetable or fruit, or portions of both. Fruit juices and vegetable juices must not be served. A serving of grains must be whole grain-rich, enriched meal, or enriched flour.

Note: Our observation of the meal service on April 23, 2018, revealed meals were served prior to the approved TIPS serving time. The monitor observed lunch meals served to 16 participants. The Sponsor only claimed the meals observed by the monitor.

Technical Assistance Provided

Technical assistance was provided to the Sponsor on adjusting the serving time to stay in compliance.

Disallowed Meals Cost

Based on the review, we determined that the Sponsor's noncompliance with the applicable Federal and State regulations that govern the CACFP resulted in a total disallowed cost of \$320.79.

Corrective Action

The Sponsor must complete the following actions within 30 days from the date of this report:

- Log into the Tennessee Information Payment System (TIPS) and revise the claim submitted for April 2018, which contains the verified claim data from the enclosed exhibit. **Please note that, if the claim is revised**, TIPS will automatically deduct the overpayment from your next CACFP claim for reimbursement. **OR**
- If you are no longer participating in the CACFP program, remit a check payable to the **Tennessee Department of Human Services** in the amount noted in the report for recovery of the amounts disallowed in this report. **Please return the attached billing notice with your check**; and
- Prepare and submit a corrective action plan to address the deficiencies identified in this report. The corrective action plan template is attached. Please return the corrective action plan to:

AuditServices.CAPS.DHS@tn.gov

If you have questions relative to the corrective action plan please contact:

Allette Vayda, Director of Operations
Child and Adult Care Food Program
8th Floor Citizens Plaza Building
400 Deaderick Street
Nashville, Tennessee 37243
Allette.Vayda@tn.gov
(615) 313--3769

Please note that the amount of disallowed cost is subject to an interest charge. The interest charge will be waived if your revised claim is completed within 30 days from the date of this report. If the revised claim is not completed by the 30-day deadline, an interest charge may be billed to your institution. Please mail your check and the billing notice to:

Child and Adult Care Food Program
Fiscal Services
11th Floor, Citizens Plaza Building
400 Deaderick Street
Nashville, Tennessee 37243

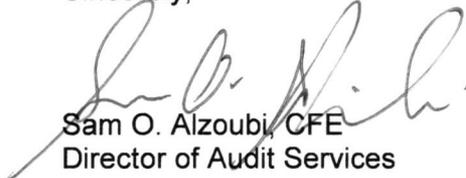
In accordance with the federal regulation found at 7 *CFR Part 226.6 (k)*, your institution may appeal the overpayment identified by the monitoring report. The procedures for submitting an appeal are enclosed. The appeal must be submitted to:

Tennessee Department of Human Services
Appeals and Hearings Division, Clerks Office
P.O. Box 198996
Nashville, Tennessee 37219

If the Institution decides to appeal the amount of disallowed administrative and meals cost, all appeal procedures must be followed as failure to do so may result in the denial of your request for an appeal.

We appreciate the assistance provided during this review. If you have any questions regarding this report, please contact Sean Baker, Audit Director 2, at 615-313-4727 or Sean.Baker@tn.gov.

Sincerely,



Sam O. Alzoubi, CFE
Director of Audit Services

Exhibit

cc: Allette Vayda, Director of Operations, Child and Adult Care Food Program
Debra Pasta, Program Manager, Child and Adult Care Food Program
Elke Moore, Administrative Assistant 3, Child and Adult Care Food Program
Constance Moore, Program Specialist, Child and Adult Care Food Program
Marty Widner, Program Specialist, Child and Adult Care Food Program
Comptroller of the Treasury, State of Tennessee

EXHIBIT

Verification of CACFP Independent Center Claim

Name of Agency: Building Block Child Development Center, Inc.

Review Month/Year: April 2018

Total Meal Reimbursement Received: \$4,283.67

Program Area	Reported on Claim	Reconciled By Monitoring Review
Number of Days that CACFP Food Service was operated	21	21
Total Attendance	1,068	1,066
Percentage of Participants in the Free or Reduced-price Category (For Proprietary Center Only)	XXXXXX	82%
Number of Breakfasts Served	716	716
Number of Lunches Served	785	744
Number of Supplements Served	1,030	1,060
Number of Participants in Free Category	47	46
Number of Participants in Reduced-Price Category	7	5
Number of Participants in Paid Category	7	11
Total Number of Participants	61	62
Total Amount of Eligible Food Costs	XXXXXXXX	\$2,004.47
Total Amount of Eligible Food and Non-Food Costs	XXXXXXXX	\$3,114.41



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DANIELLE W. BARNES
COMMISSIONER

July 10, 2018

Rhonda McDonald, Owner
Building Block Child Development Center, Inc.
5400 Knight Arnold Road
Memphis, Tennessee 38115-2817

Notice of payment due to findings disclosed in the monitoring report for Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)

Institution Name:	Building Block Child Development Center, Inc.
Institution Address:	5400 Knight Arnold Road Memphis, Tennessee 38115-2817
Agreement Numbers:	00186
Amount Due:	\$320.79
Due Date:	August 13, 2018

Based on the monitoring report issued, by the Audit Services Division within the Tennessee Department of Human Services, the Community and Social Services- Food Programs- CACFP & SFSP management has agreed with the findings which require your institution to reimburse the Department of Human Services the disallowed cost noted in the report

Please remit a check or money order payable to the **Tennessee Department of Human Services** in the amount noted above by the due date to:

**Fiscal Services 11th Floor
Citizens Plaza Building
400 Deaderick Street
Nashville, Tennessee 37243-1403
Tennessee Department of Human Services**

Please note that the disallowed meals cost/overpayment of the CACFP is subject to an interest charge. The interest charge will be waived if the payment is received by the due date. If payment is not received by the end of 5th day of the due date, an interest charge may be added to the original amount due and will be billed to your entity.

If you have any questions regarding this notice, please feel free to contact Allette Vayda, Director of Operations at (615) 313-3769 or Allette.Vayda@tn.gov

Thank you for your attention



Corrective Action Plan for Monitoring Findings

Instructions: Please print in ink or type the information to complete this document. Enter the date of birth for each Responsible Principal and/or Individual in Section B. Attach the additional documentation requested. Enter your name, title and date of signature on the last page. Please sign your name in ink.

Please return ALL pages of the completed Corrective Action Plan form.

Section A. Institution Information

Name of Sponsor/Agency/Site: Building Block Child Development Center, Inc	Agreement No. 00186	<input type="checkbox"/> SFSP <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CACFP
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Mailing Address: 5400 Knight Arnold Road Memphis, Tennessee 38115-2817

Section B. Responsible Principal(s) and/or Individual(s)

Name and Title: Rhonda McDonald, Owner	Date of Birth: / /
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Section C. Dates of Issuance of Monitoring Report/Corrective Action Plan

Monitoring Report: 7/10/2018	Corrective Action Plan: 7/10/2018
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Section D. Findings

Findings:

1. The number of participants reported in the free, reduced-price, and paid category was incorrect
2. The Sponsor claimed the incorrect number of meals
3. The Sponsor provided a menu that did not meet the USDA meal requirements
4. Infant menus did not meet the meal pattern requirements established by the USDA
5. The Sponsor reported the number of attendance days incorrectly
6. The Sponsor did not provide documentation to support the requirement that one whole grain-rich grain must be served each day
7. The Sponsor provided menus that did not meet the new CACFP meal pattern
8. Infant menus did not meet the meal pattern requirements established by the USDA

The following measures will be completed within **30 calendar days** of my institution's receipt of this corrective action plan:

Measure No. 1: The number of participants reported in the free, reduced-price, and paid category was incorrect

The finding will be fully and permanently corrected.

Identify the name(s) and position title(s) of the employee(s) who will be responsible for ensuring that the finding is fully and permanently corrected:

Name:

Position Title:

Name:

Position Title:

Describe below the **step-by-step** procedures that will be implemented to correct the finding:

When will the procedures for addressing the finding be implemented? Provide a timeline below for implementing the procedures (i.e., will the procedures be done daily, weekly, monthly, or annually, and when will they begin?):

Where will the Corrective Action Plan documentation be retained? Please identify below:

How will new and current staff be informed of the new policies and procedures to address the finding (e.g., Handbook, training, etc.)? Please describe below:

Measure No.2: The Sponsor claimed the incorrect number of meals

The finding will be fully and permanently corrected.

Identify the name(s) and position title(s) of the employee(s) who will be responsible for ensuring that the finding is fully and permanently corrected:

Name: _____ Position Title: _____

Name: _____ Position Title: _____

Describe below the **step-by-step** procedures that will be implemented to correct the finding:

When will the procedures for addressing the finding be implemented? Provide a timeline below for implementing the procedures (i.e., will the procedures be done daily, weekly, monthly, or annually, and when will they begin?):

Where will the Corrective Action Plan documentation be retained? Please identify below:

How will new and current staff be informed of the new policies and procedures to address the finding (e.g., Handbook, training, etc.)? Please describe below:

Measure No. 3: The Sponsor provided a menu that did not meet the USDA meal requirements

The finding will be fully and permanently corrected.
Identify the name(s) and position title(s) of the employee(s) who will be responsible for ensuring that the finding is fully and permanently corrected:

Name: Position Title:

Name: Position Title:

Describe below the **step-by-step** procedures that will be implemented to correct the finding:

When will the procedures for addressing the finding be implemented? Provide a timeline below for implementing the procedures (i.e., will the procedures be done daily, weekly, monthly, or annually, and when will they begin?):

Where will the Corrective Action Plan documentation be retained? Please identify below:

How will new and current staff be informed of the new policies and procedures to address the finding (e.g., Handbook, training, etc.)? Please describe below:

Measure No. 4: Infant menus did not meet the meal pattern requirements established by the USDA

The finding will be fully and permanently corrected.
Identify the name(s) and position title(s) of the employee(s) who will be responsible for ensuring that the finding is fully and permanently corrected:

Name: Position Title:

Name: Position Title:

Describe below the **step-by-step** procedures that will be implemented to correct the finding:

When will the procedures for addressing the finding be implemented? Provide a timeline below for implementing the procedures (i.e., will the procedures be done daily, weekly, monthly, or annually, and when will they begin?):

Where will the Corrective Action Plan documentation be retained? Please identify below:

How will new and current staff be informed of the new policies and procedures to address the finding (e.g., Handbook, training, etc.)? Please describe below:

Measure No. 5: The Sponsor reported the number of attendance days incorrectly

The finding will be fully and permanently corrected.

Identify the name(s) and position title(s) of the employee(s) who will be responsible for ensuring that the finding is fully and permanently corrected:

Name:

Position Title:

Name:

Position Title:

Describe below the **step-by-step** procedures that will be implemented to correct the finding:

When will the procedures for addressing the finding be implemented? Provide a timeline below for implementing the procedures (i.e., will the procedures be done daily, weekly, monthly, or annually, and when will they begin?):

Where will the Corrective Action Plan documentation be retained? Please identify below:

How will new and current staff be informed of the new policies and procedures to address the finding (e.g., Handbook, training, etc.)? Please describe below:

Measure No.6: The Sponsor did not provide documentation to support the requirement that one whole grain-rich grain must be served each day

The finding will be fully and permanently corrected.
Identify the name(s) and position title(s) of the employee(s) who will be responsible for ensuring that the finding is fully and permanently corrected:

Name:

Position Title:

Name:

Position Title:

Describe below the **step-by-step** procedures that will be implemented to correct the finding:

When will the procedures for addressing the finding be implemented? Provide a timeline below for implementing the procedures (i.e., will the procedures be done daily, weekly, monthly, or annually, and when will they begin?):

Where will the Corrective Action Plan documentation be retained? Please identify below:

How will new and current staff be informed of the new policies and procedures to address the finding (e.g., Handbook, training, etc.)? Please describe below:

Measure No. 7: The Sponsor provided menus that did not meet the new CACFP meal pattern

The finding will be fully and permanently corrected.

Identify the name(s) and position title(s) of the employee(s) who will be responsible for ensuring that the finding is fully and permanently corrected:

Name:

Position Title:

Name:

Position Title:

Describe below the **step-by-step** procedures that will be implemented to correct the finding:

When will the procedures for addressing the finding be implemented? Provide a timeline below for implementing the procedures (i.e., will the procedures be done daily, weekly, monthly, or annually, and when will they begin?):

Where will the Corrective Action Plan documentation be retained? Please identify below:

How will new and current staff be informed of the new policies and procedures to address the finding (e.g., Handbook, training, etc.)? Please describe below:

Measure No. 8: Infant menus did not meet the meal pattern requirements established by the USDA

The finding will be fully and permanently corrected.

Identify the name(s) and position title(s) of the employee(s) who will be responsible for ensuring that the finding is fully and permanently corrected:

Name: _____ Position Title: _____

Name: _____ Position Title: _____

Describe below the **step-by-step** procedures that will be implemented to correct the finding:

When will the procedures for addressing the finding be implemented? Provide a timeline below for implementing the procedures (i.e., will the procedures be done daily, weekly, monthly, or annually, and when will they begin?):

Where will the Corrective Action Plan documentation be retained? Please identify below:

How will new and current staff be informed of the new policies and procedures to address the finding (e.g., Handbook, training, etc.)? Please describe below:

I certify by my signature below that I am authorized by the institution to sign this document. As an authorized representative of the institution, I fully understand the corrective measures identified above and agree to fully implement these measures within the required time frame. I also understand that failure to fully and permanently correct the findings in my institution's CACFP or SFSP will result in its termination from the program, and the placement of the institution and its responsible principals on the National Disqualified List maintained by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Printed Name of Authorized Institution Official:

Position:

Signature of Authorized Institution Official: _____

Date: / /

Signature of Authorized TDHS Official: _____

Date: / /

APPEAL PROCEDURES FOR CHILD AND ADULT CARE INSTITUTIONS AND SPONSORING AGENCIES

Appeal Procedures

1. Pursuant to 7 CFR §226.6(k)(4), the TN Department of Human Services (TDHS) must provide administrative review procedures to institutions and responsible principals and responsible individuals as follows:

- (a) Annually to all institutions;
- (b) To an institution and to each responsible principal and responsible individual when the State agency takes any action subject to an administrative review as described in 7 CFR §226.6(k)(2); and
- (c) Any other time upon request.

2. Pursuant to 7 CFR 226.6(k)(3) and (k)(9), some administrative actions are not subject to administrative review. Those actions are listed in paragraph 2.(a). Other administrative actions may be administratively appealed. Those actions are listed in paragraph 2.(b) and (c). All institutions and sponsoring agencies may appeal any adverse administrative action listed in paragraph 2.(b) which are taken by the TDHS by requesting a fair hearing to appear in person to refute the action, or by requesting a review of written information in lieu of a fair hearing.

(a) Pursuant to 7 CFR Part 226.6 (k)(3) TDHS is prohibited from offering administrative reviews of the following actions:

- (i) FNS decisions on claim deadline exceptions and requests for upward adjustments to a claim.
- (ii) Determination of serious deficiency.
- (iii) State agency determination that corrective action is inadequate.
- (iv) Disqualification and placement on State agency list and National disqualified list.
- (v) Termination.
- (vi) State agency or FNS decision regarding removal from the National disqualified list.
- (vii) State agency's refusal to consider an application submitted by an institution or facility on the National disqualified list.

(b) Pursuant to 7 CFR Part 226.6(k)(9), an abbreviated appeal process is available for the following actions. TDHS must limit the administrative review to a review of written submissions by the TDHS and institutions or sponsoring agencies concerning the accuracy of the State agency's determination if the application was denied, or the State agency proposes to terminate the institution's agreement because:

- (viii) The information submitted on the application was false;
- (ix) The institution, one of its sponsored facilities, or one of the principals of the institution or its facilities is on the national disqualified list;
- (x) The institution, one of its sponsored facilities, or one of the principals of the institution or its facilities is ineligible to participate in any other publicly funded program by reason of violation of the requirements of the program;

Appeal Procedures for Child and Adult Care Food Program-Institutions
Revised March 2017

- (xi) The institution, one of its sponsored facilities, or one of the principals of the institution or its facilities has been convicted for any activity that indicates a lack of business integrity;

(c) Administrative review is also available if the State agency notifies the institution and responsible principal or responsible individual of the following actions: proposed disqualification of a responsible principal or responsible individual, denial of a budget, denial of a line item within a budget, downward adjustment of the amount approved in a budget, suspension of an institution's participation, denial of start-up or expansion funds, denial of a request for advanced payment, recovery of an advance in excess of a claim, denial of a claim for reimbursement (except for late submission), decision not to forward an exception request for payment of a late claim, overpayment demand, denial of a new or renewing institution's application for participation, denial of sponsored facility application, notice of proposed termination, claim denial, claim deadline exceptions and requests for upward adjustments to a claim, or any other action affecting an institutions participation or claim for payment.

3. All appeal requests must be presented in writing to the TDHS Division of Appeals and Hearings not later than 15 calendar days after the date the institution or sponsoring agency receives the notice of adverse administrative action.

4. The date of an institution's or sponsoring agency's receipt of a notice of suspension and/or proposed termination and disqualification will be governed by the federal regulation at 7 CFR Part 226.2. The notice must specify the action being proposed or taken and the basis for the action, and is considered to be received by the institution or day care home when it is delivered, sent by facsimile, or sent by email. If the notice is undeliverable, it is considered to be received by the institution, responsible principal or responsible individual, or day care home five days after being sent to the addressee's last known mailing address, facsimile number, or email address.

5. The TDHS Division of Appeals and Hearings will acknowledge the receipt of the appeal request within 10 calendar days of the receipt of the institution's or sponsoring agency's request for review. The written request for review should state if a fair hearing is requested or if a review of written information in lieu of a fair hearing is requested. If the appeal request from the institution or sponsoring agency does not specifically request a hearing, a review of written information in lieu of a hearing will occur. If a fair hearing is requested and the institution or sponsoring agency's representative fails to appear, the right to a personal appearance is waived.

6. If an institution or sponsoring agency does not request a fair hearing or a review of written information in lieu of the hearing within 15 calendar days from the date the institution or sponsoring agency receives a Notice of Proposed Termination, the TDHS will issue a letter advising the institution or sponsoring agency that it is terminated from the CACFP effective on the 16th calendar day following the institution's or sponsoring agency's receipt of the notice, and that the responsible principals and individuals of the institution or sponsoring agency are disqualified from participation.

7. To be considered for a fair hearing or for a review of written information in lieu of a fair

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hearing, all written documents must be submitted to the TDHS Division of Appeals and Hearings not later than 30 days after receipt of the notice of adverse administrative action.

8. The action of the TDHS must remain in effect during the administrative review. The effect of this requirement on particular actions by TDHS is as follows:

(i) *Overpayment demand.* During the period of the administrative review, TDHS is prohibited from taking action to collect or offset the overpayment. However TDHS must assess interest beginning with the initial demand for remittance of the overpayment and continuing through the period of administrative review unless the administrative review official overturns the TDHS's action.

(ii) *Recovery of advances.* During the administrative review, TDHS must continue its efforts to recover advances in excess of the claim for reimbursement for the applicable period. The recovery may be through a demand for full repayment or an adjustment of subsequent payments.

(iii) *Program payments.* The availability of Program payments during an administrative review of the denial of a new institution's application, denial of a renewing institution's application, proposed termination of a participating institution's agreement, and suspension of an institution are addressed in paragraphs (c)(1)(iii)(D), (c)(2)(iii)(D), (c)(3)(iii)(D), (c)(5)(i)(D), and (c)(5)(ii)(E), respectively, of 7 CFR §226.6.

9. The institution or sponsoring agency must refute the charges contained in the notice during the fair hearing or in the written information that is provided in lieu of the hearing.

10. The institution and the responsible principals and responsible individuals may retain legal counsel, or may be represented by another person.

11. If a fair hearing is requested, the institution or sponsoring agency will be notified in writing of the time, date and place of the fair hearing at least 10 calendar days in advance.

12. Any information which supports an adverse administrative action taken by the TDHS shall be available to the institution or sponsoring agency for inspection from the date of the receipt of the request for a fair hearing or a review of written information in lieu of the hearing.

13. In accordance with 7 CFR Part 226.6 (k)(8), the TDHS Division of Appeals and Hearings must conduct the administrative review of the proposed disqualification of the responsible principals and responsible individuals as part of the administrative review of the application denial, proposed termination, and/or proposed disqualification of the institution with which the responsible principals or responsible individuals are associated. However, at the administrative review official's discretion, separate administrative reviews may be held if the institution does not request an administrative review or if either the institution or the responsible principal or responsible individual demonstrates that their interests conflict.

14. The procedures contained in the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act found at TCA 4-5-301 et seq. shall be followed in rendering a decision on all appeals. The decision of the hearing officer is the final administrative determination to be afforded to the institution or sponsoring agency, and shall be rendered in a timely manner not to exceed 60 calendar days from the date of the receipt of the request for a fair hearing.

15. The processing limits for administrative appeals MUST be met. In the event a continuance is requested by a party, one continuance may be granted at the Hearing Official's discretion. This

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continuance shall not be for a period longer than ten (10) calendar days unless there are exceptional circumstances. Exceptional circumstances must be detailed in the order of continuance and the order must contain a date certain for the hearing, to be set as soon as possible. A report of pending CACFP desk review and fair hearing requests will be generated and reviewed daily by the Clerk's Office and the Legal Director for Appeals and Hearings who will monitor the dates for timeliness. In the event a decision has not been rendered within forty-five (45) calendar days of the date of receipt of the request for fair hearing or desk review, the Legal Director for Appeals and Hearings or their back-up shall notify the hearing official to take appropriate action.

16. All requests for a fair hearing or for a review of written information in lieu of a hearing must be submitted to:

Tennessee Department of Human Services
Division of Appeals and Hearings
PO Box 198996, Clerk's Office
Nashville, TN 37219-8996
Fax: (615) 248-7013 or (866) 355-6136
E-mail: AppealsClerksOffice.DHS@tn.gov

17. If a termination action is upheld by the hearing officer, the TDHS will issue a letter to the institution or sponsoring agency and its responsible principals and individuals advising that the termination and disqualification are effective on the date of the ruling issued by the hearing officer. The agency maintains searchable records of all administrative reviews and their dispositions for a period of five (5) years.

18. As required by 7 CFR Part 226.6 (c)(7), each disqualified institution, sponsoring agency, principal and individual will be placed on the National Disqualified List maintained by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Once included on the National Disqualified List, an institution, sponsoring agency, principal and individual shall remain on the list until such time as the USDA, in consultation with the TDHS, determines that the serious deficiencies that led to their placement on the list have been corrected, or until seven years have elapsed since they were disqualified from participation. However, if the institution, sponsoring agency, principal or individual has failed to repay debts owed under the program, they will remain on the list until the debt has been paid.